

# Honesty

## Biblical Material: Proverbs 16.11

'God wants weights and measures to be honest and accurate and every sale to be just'

### You will need:

Some scales and some items to weigh.

### Introduction

Ask pupils to help you weigh the items. Cheat by pressing on the scales when you weigh them or using weights that are incorrectly labelled. Explain afterwards that you deliberately cheated and ask pupils to weigh the items again, saying by how much they were robbed by you. Explain that it is against the law to alter weights. Scales have to be regularly tested.

### Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Normally people are told not to copy, but in the Bible it teaches people to copy or imitate God. Christians believe they should be totally honest in all they do because God is honest. They should be fair because God is fair. This doesn't only apply to the big things in life, but to every action. When this proverb was written, having honest measures and fair sales was very important indeed. Most people had very little money. If they used what little money they had to buy food for the family, they would go hungry if they were cheated out of some of the food. The prophet Amos had this to say about the injustice and dishonesty going on in his day:

'You don't know how to be honest!

You don't treat the poor fairly and you rob them of their food.

You walk all over the needy.

You overcharge, use false weights and alter the scales to cheat your customers.'

(Amos 5. 11-12, 8. 5-6)

Amos knew that God cared as much about justice and fairness in everyday life as he did about the big events. God cared about shopping as well as prayer.

### Prayer/Reflection

Ask pupils to close their eyes and think of the ordinary things they will do today: work, play, eat, sleep etc.

*Father, we thank you that you care about all parts of life, the ordinary and the special. You care about the food we need and the way we are treated in shops. You even care that weights and measures are fair in case we are cheated. Thank you that you care about people shopping as well as people praying.*

*Note.* For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

